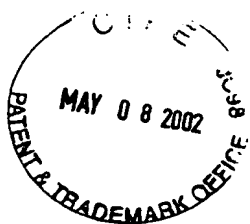


DOCKET NO. 9545-013-27



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S. 3rd
5/13/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: AARON ABBOTT, ET AL.

ART UNIT: 2152

SERIAL NO.: 09/220,724

EXAMINER: PRIETO, B.

FILING DATE: DECEMBER 24, 1998

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HIERARCHICAL SOFTWARE
DISTRIBUTION PACKAGES

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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MAY 13 2002
Technology Center 2100

SIR:

In reply to the Office Action dated November 30, 2001, Applicants submit the following
Amendment and Remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 8, and 9 as follows:

61 amended 17. (Amended) Apparatus for hierarchical software allowing distribution of a software package comprising at least a first and second package to a plurality of target nodes, wherein the contents of said first and second package are determined by a distribution server before the contents are distributed, said apparatus comprising:

a distribution node for transmitting packages of software;

a first branch node in communication with said distribution node, said first branch node being arranged to receive said software package from said distribution node;

first and second target nodes, said first target node being in communication with said first branch node via a first network link, and said second target node being in communication with